

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 30, 32, 42-44, 47, 48, 50, 52-54 and 56-60. The changes are shown with ~~striketrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter. A complete listing of the claims are found below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A method for stabilizing reduced coenzyme Q10
which comprises obtaining a composition by admixing reduced coenzyme Q10 with a fat and oil (excluding olive oil) and/or a polyol as the main component in which the stabilization of reduced coenzyme Q10 is not substantially inhibited and thereby protecting reduced coenzyme Q10 against oxidation.
2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1,
wherein the fat and oil comprises at least one fat and oil selected from among coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, linseed oil, camellia oil, brown rice germ oil, avocado oil, rapeseed oil, rice oil, peanut oil, corn oil, wheat germ oil, soybean oil, perilla oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower seed oil, kapok oil, evening primrose oil, shea butter, sal fat, cacao butter, sesame oil, safflower oil, lard, milk fat, fish oil, and beef tallow, modified fat and oil derived from these by fractionation, hydrogenation, transesterification or the like, medium-chain fatty acid triglycerides, fatty acid partial glycerides, and phospholipids.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein the fat and oil/(fat and oil + polyol) weight ratio is not lower than 1/10.
- 5.-7. (Canceled).
8. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1,
wherein the content of reduced coenzyme Q10 in the composition is higher than 5% by weight.

9.-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 1,
wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days
storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 95%, with the
percent retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme
Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being
taken as 100%.

13. (Original) A composition
which comprises reduced coenzyme Q10, a fat and oil (exclusive of olive
oil) and/or a polyol and in which the stabilization of reduced coenzyme Q10 is not
substantially inhibited.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 13,
wherein the polyol comprises at least one polyol selected from among
glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 13,
wherein the content of vitamin E, when the same is further contained in
the composition, is lower than 4% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme
Q10.

18.-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 13,
wherein the content of reduced coenzyme Q10 in the composition is
higher than 5% by weight.

21.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 13, wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 95%, with the percent retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being taken as 100%.

29. (Original) A reduced coenzyme Q10-containing composition which comprises reduced coenzyme Q10, a polyglycerol fatty acid ester, and a fat and oil and/or a polyol.

30. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the fat and oil comprises at least one fat and oil selected from among coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, linseed oil, camellia oil, brown rice germ oil, avocado oil, rapeseed oil, rice oil, peanut oil, corn oil, wheat germ oil, soybean oil, perilla oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower seed oil, kapok oil, evening primrose oil, shea butter, sal fat, cacao butter, sesame oil, safflower oil, olive oil, lard, milk fat, fish oil, and beef tallow, modified fat and oil derived from these by fractionation, hydrogenation, transesterification or the like, medium-chain fatty acid triglycerides, fatty acid partial glycerides, and phospholipids.

31. (Original) The composition according to Claim 29 or 30, wherein the polyol comprises at least one polyol selected from among glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol.

32. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 31, wherein the fat and oil/(fat and oil + polyol) weight ratio is not lower than 1/10.

33. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the content of the fat and oil and/or polyol in the composition is not lower than 50% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q10.

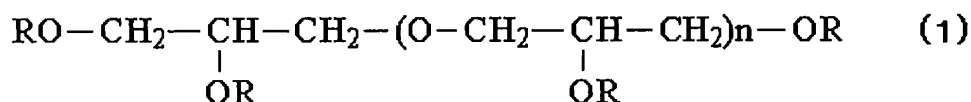
34. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29 which further comprises an ascorbic acid.
35. (Canceled).
36. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 34, wherein the content of the ascorbic acid is not higher than 30% by weight based on the system excluding reduced coenzyme Q10.
- 37.-38. (Canceled).
39. (Previously Amended) The composition according to claim 34 which further comprises a surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters.
40. (Original) The composition according to Claim 39, wherein the surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters is a Tween or Span species.
41. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 39, wherein the content of the surfactant other than polyglycerol fatty acid esters is not higher than 90% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q10.
42. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 41, wherein the content of reduced coenzyme Q₁₀ in the composition is higher than 5% by weight.
43. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 42, wherein any oxidation product derived from a reducing agent to reduce oxidized coenzyme Q₁₀ is substantially absent.

44. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 43,

wherein the reduced coenzyme Q10 is an externally added one.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polyglycerol fatty acid ester is represented by the following formula (1):



in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 29 and the four R's each independently represents a fatty acid residue containing 2 to 22 carbon atoms or a hydrogen atom, exclusive of the case where all R's are hydrogen atoms.

47. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 46,

wherein the content of the polyglycerol fatty acid ester is not lower than 1% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q₁₀.

48. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 47,

wherein the content of the polyglycerol fatty acid ester is not higher than 50% by weight based on the system excluding coenzyme Q₁₀.

49. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polyglycerol fatty acid ester has an HLB value of 4 to 12.

50. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29 to 49,

wherein the ratio (number of fatty acid residues in polyglycerol fatty acid ester)/(degree of polymerization of glycerol) is 1/4 to 1/2.

51. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29,
wherein the fatty acid residue or residues in the polyglycerol fatty acid
ester each contains not less than 8 carbon atoms and the degree of polymerization of
glycerol is not higher than 10.

52. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29
to 51,
wherein the polyglycerol fatty acid ester is a diglycerol fatty acid ester.

53. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 52,
wherein the diglycerol fatty acid ester comprises at least one species
selected from among diglycerol monocaprate, diglycerol monolaurate, and diglycerol
monooleate.

54. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 53,
wherein the diglycerol fatty acid ester is diglycerol monooleate.

55. (Canceled).

56. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29
to 55
which is prepared or stored in a deoxygenized atmosphere.

57. (Currently Amended) The composition according to any one of Claims 29
to 56
which is processed in an oral dosage form.

58. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 57,
said dosage form being capsules.

59. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 58,
said capsules being soft capsules.

60. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 58 or 59, said capsules being packed in a phial, bottle, plastic bag, aluminum laminate bag, PTP packaging, three side-sealed packaging, four side-sealed packaging, strip packaging, aluminum shaped packaging or stick packaging.

61. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the percent retention of reduced coenzyme Q10 after 3 days storage in the air at 40°C under a light-shielded condition is not lower than 70%, with the percent retention in the corresponding composition composed of reduced coenzyme Q10, the fat and oil and/or polyol alone after storage under the same conditions being taken as 100%.